

THE LABOUR ORGANISER

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AGENCY CHANGES AND NEW APPOINTMENTS

St. Marylebone.—Mr. R. Stanton has relinquished the agency in this constituency and been appointed to Central Hackney. We understand that no new appointment is being made at present in St. Marylebone.

Central Hackney.—Mr. R. Stanton has been appointed full time agent. Address: 69, Hamilton Road, Dollis Hill, London, N.W.10.

East Nottingham.—Mr. H. J. Lloyd, late of Aldershot, has been appointed full time agent.

Address: 138, Mansfield Road, Nottingham.

Stroud.—Mr. J. J. Stonier, late of Smethwick, has been appointed full time agent.

(Address (after 22nd inst.) Labour Club, Far Hill, Stroud, Gloucestershire.

Bosworth.—Mr. A. E. Bennett, formerly part time agent, is now full time agent in this constituency.

Address: 29, New Walk, Leicester.

Twickenham.—Mr. J. Stout has been appointed full time Organiser under the London Co-operative Political Committee.

Address: 12, Parkside Road, Hounslow, Middlesex.

ILFORD LABOUR PARTY'S FINE PROGRESS

2,000 Membership Mark Passed

Our readers will be greatly encouraged and inspired by the fine progress being made by the Ilford Trades Council and Labour Party. We have been notified that the Party has this month passed the two thousand membership mark, and are pushing on to the achievement of a three thousand membership.

The balance sheet for 1930 of the above Party is really inspiring reading, and the statement of accounts is in every way satisfactory. This is a constituency of peculiar difficulties, carrying aloft the banner of Labour without any outside aid whatever. Last year the income from members' subscriptions reached the magnificent total of £355 19s. 9d. In addition to this a Sale of Work resulted in the sum

of £157 being added to the funds of the Party. The total income of the Party was £995 4s. 10d., and there was a balance in hand at the year end of £148 8s. 3d. The accounts show a balance of assets over liabilities amounting to £382 10s. 3d.

The Ilford Labour Party adopted the Penny Per Week Scheme of contributions in 1925, and we understand the whole of the collections are carried out by voluntary collectors. We present our heartiest congratulations to this Party, and to its agent, Mr. R. T. Holness.

Promoters of Local Labour newspapers will be interested to know that the "Ilford Herald" made a profit of £12 on the year's working. The cost of publication was £53 9s. 6d. and the income was £65 3s. 11d.

THIS MONTH'S L O.

A word to our readers.

Our readers will note that, as announced last month, this month's issue contains a number of reprinted articles from early issues of our paper. The adoption of this course has rendered possible a brief and somewhat interrupted holiday for the Editor, but we believe our readers will be more than satisfied with the varied and instructive fare provided for them.

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Facts: How to Get and How to Use Them

BY THE RIGHT HON. PHILIP SNOWDEN, M.P.

We have very high authority for attaching importance to the use and value of Facts. Carlyle asked to be "fed on facts." Burns tells us that "Facts are chieftains that winna ding." I haven't the least idea what "ding" means in the Scottish language, but no doubt in this connection it implies something complimentary to facts. And our old proverb says that "An ounce of fact is worth a ton of theory."

There are very few people who can deal with or understand abstract theories. I suppose it is a sign of a higher intellectual development to have the abstract mind. But in the Labour movement, and in Labour propaganda we have to deal with a very matter-of-fact people. Hence we must feed them on facts.

But I know no art more difficult than that of presenting facts and figures in a telling and effective way. How often have I heard a speaker use a valuable fact in a way which has spoiled all its possibilities. It is so very easy to bore an audience with facts and figures and statistics. The person who uses facts in speaking or writing should remember that the way to impress is to give a mental picture of "relativity." That is an awful word, but what I mean is this: To say that we have 1,423,819 persons unemployed gives no striking and impressive mental picture. But if you say that the number of unemployed could be formed into a procession, four abreast, which would reach from London to Liverpool, you leave a permanent impression on your hearers' minds. In the same way to roll out figures about the amount of the National Debt is not nearly so effective as to say that if the sum were in one pound notes it would take a man, counting them one a second day and night, two hundred and fifty years to count the debt.

The use of facts and figures is a good training in accuracy. Bacon said that writing maketh an exact man. So does the use of facts and figures. One can reason abstractedly, and although the argument may be criticised, it is difficult to prove it, for abstract reasoning is mainly dealing with opinions.

Be sure of your facts; but be even more sure that the other man has not a fact that will knock yours into smithereens. And, although it is just outside the matter with which I am now dealing, may I say here, how very

important it is that Labour speakers should know the other side of their case, so as to be prepared to deal with objections and criticisms. It is not at all necessary that you should state the case against yourself, if there be one, but it is very necessary that you should know it.

Of course, advice about the use of facts presupposes that you have got facts to use. I suppose every writer and speaker has his own method of collecting and arranging his material. My present method, which I have used for years, is the outcome of thirty years' experience.

When I see anything in a newspaper which I think may come in useful I mark it with a blue pencil and put a blue mark on the outside of the paper to indicate that a cutting has to be made. When I have time I go through these papers and cut out the marked items.

The way I file them is this: Get a drawer, or a large cardboard box. Get a number of stiff pasteboard cards the size of a postcard. Fold your cuttings so that your postcard will rise above the cuttings. Arrange your cuttings under headings marked at the top of the postcard, as for example, "Emigration," "Taxation," "Unemployment," "Lloyd George," etc. You will probably find that all the questions in which you are interested will fall within twenty or thirty categories.

Above all, do not forget to mark the cutting with the name of the paper and its date from which you have taken it. Without this your "fact" is useless if you are challenged.

But very often you would like to make a note of something you see in a book or magazine you do not wish to cut. The way to file that reference is to have a large notebook with headings corresponding to those on your postcards, and to make a note of the fact and place where it can be found in a few words.

Facts taken from the capitalist Press are far more useful than those from the Labour and Socialist Press for popular use. If, for instance, you quote something from, say, the "Daily Herald" or the "New Leader," and you are asked where it appeared, and you give your authority, the sceptic will say, "Oh, a blooming Socialist paper." But if you say it appeared in the

"Times," or even the "Daily Mail," he will respect your authority.

Much the most useful material for our propaganda is to be found in the financial pages of the daily papers, and especially in the reports of company meetings, now printed very fully (at advertisement rates) in all the chief newspapers.

Having got your facts easily accessible you will never be at a loss to find material for a speech. Suppose you want to speak on Housing. You have got your facts under that heading in your drawer. Take out all the cuttings. Go through them and make extracts just in the order you find them. Then take all your notes, and separate them into about three or four divisions. Then arrange the matter under each division in logical order, and you have got your speech.

The method of filing the cuttings, which I have recommended, is much better than pasting them into a book. By keeping them loose you are able to take the cutting you require with you. It saves the trouble of writing out the extract, and it is also safer to have the actual cutting, if you should be challenged.

Facility in using facts in speech and writing, and in enforcing the moral from them you want to drive home, will come with practice.

WALL-BOARDS OR NUMBER-SHEETS?

The respective advantages and drawbacks of wall boards or number sheets provide an everlasting subject for disagreement among election experts. There are many highly successful agents who adhere stoutly to the old-fashioned wall board on which a marked register is pasted, which "wall" board nevertheless is often used, not upon the wall, but flat upon a table. Other agents swear by number-sheets and can bring to the support of their advocacy evidence of a more scientific system and up-to-date device. The solution however, of the matter seems to lie with the extent to which one's workers have been trained in the use of this or that system. Wall boards are orthodox, and many election workers understand them. Numbers are probably more efficient, but the workers require to be trained in the use of them. It is sheer madness to place an up-to-date or modern system in the hands of men who do not understand it and whose confusion is apt to lead to loss of votes. Our advice is, where workers can be trained beforehand,—use numbers; where they have not been trained, — use the pasted register on the wall boards.

The principle involved in the last paragraph is one that recurs more than once in the course of an election campaign. While I am a profound believer in up-to-date modern organising methods and in scientific electioneering, I would not hesitate one instant to adopt the most primitive and elementary system if this system was one that was best understood by the workers available. Elasticity in electioneering methods is of supreme value. It is for this reason that one cannot lay down hard and fast rules, or a specific course of conduct that should be followed implicitly in every election. It follows that absence of preliminary training of the workers is a handicap. At the least, election workers should be called together at different times for the purpose of discussing plans and methods. It is sheer childishness and consummate conceit on anyone's part to pretend that either they or the workers themselves know it all. Electioneering itself is a problem always changing, and one never ceases to learn.

[From the "L.O." for April, 1922]

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What is Stratified Electioneering?

By SIDNEY WEBB [now Lord Passfield]

It has occurred to me, in watching the process of combined propaganda and advertising that we call electioneering, that one refinement of which it is capable is a certain measure of stratification. Necessarily, the bulk of the effort must be addressed to the mass of the electors; and with the present huge constituencies and scarcity of funds, there is often no opportunity of accomplishing more than the indispensable. But it was an acute remark of H. G. Wells, twenty years ago, that modern Democracy was characteristically grey, not because any one of the units making up the mass was itself grey, but because the mixing of them together produced a dirty and unattractive grey. He looked forward to a time when we might be able to see Democracy, not as grey but as very highly coloured indeed, the units being all allowed their separate individuality of hue.

Now, I should like to see a little variegated colour in electioneering, in addition to the common grey. Every elector has his own "colour," if we could only discover it. He differs in character and circumstances, temperament and vocation, religion and recreation—and in a thousand other ways from his fellowmen. At present we tend to address them all in the same way, with the result of achieving everywhere a certain amount of "misfit."

To come to practical suggestions. I should like to see, as a counsel of perfection, lists for each constituency of Doctors, Chemists, Ministers of Religion, Teachers (male and female), Agriculturists, Shopkeepers, Trade Unionists, Friendly Society members, Temperance enthusiasts, Insurance Agents, Co-operators (male and female), Workmen's Club members, and ever so many other of the "strata" into which the constituency is actually divided. It would then be for consideration how the candidate could get effectively into personal relations with each of these "strata." What special literature could be sent to each?

I have heard of one sitting member who, at a time of considerable sectarian rivalry, started a "creed register" of his constituency, aiming at recording the particular denomination, if any, to which each elector belonged.

He explained that, whilst he always replied sincerely to all enquiries as to the policy that he supported on the questions at issue, he preferred to explain his position in the phraseology of the denomination to which the enquirer belonged, rather than use terms and phrases that were to the enquirer anathema! This, however, may be a refinement too subtle for the rough and tumble of electioneering.

To sum up: My suggestion is that we should, as far as possible, "stratify" our electioneering; appealing to each section of the electorate in the language which that section understands; emphasising just the points in which that section is interested; subordinating the questions that each section finds dull or unpleasant; addressing to each section the literature most appropriate to it; and generally seeking to substitute, for the "greyness" of mass propaganda, the warmer and more individualised colours characteristic of each man's speciality.

[From the L.O. for November, 1922.]

BOYS AS NUMBER-TAKERS

The employment of boys as number-takers at polling stations is not a very inspiring thing. As a matter of fact if a general practice is carried out and these boys are given some small remuneration for their services they are technically "messengers," and in the numbers we have seen them engaged in certain places they would hopelessly exceed the legal limit. It is a far better plan to utilise adults for this purpose and voluntary labour at that. Boy labour is altogether derogatory; many electors ignore them altogether, and they are also prone to error and "absence without leave." Since the object of the number-taker is primarily not to use influence on the voter but merely to secure his number, no objection can be raised to the interchange of numbers with the enemy, and a good deal more might be done in this direction. Opposition number-takers frequently oblige one another outside the polling stations, and we have seen the practice of single number-takers serving both Parties carried out with advantage.

[From the "L.O." for April, 1922.]



LAW AND PRACTICE



Recovery of Penalties on Disqualified Councillors

Questions have been many times put to us regarding the penalties incurred by persons who, when disqualified, continue to act or to remain as Councillors on Borough and District Councils.

There is, perhaps, a natural desire to make things hot for an opponent who commits the gross offence named, albeit the offence can be very innocently committed, and it by no means follows that every person guilty of it is an offender who deserves the extreme penalty.

Behind some of the queries made we have suspected some desire to profit by the offender's lapse, for several enquirers have asked particularly regarding the award of any penalty to a common informer. It is as well, therefore, to state right away that there is very little hope of any person making money by publicly taking upon himself the business of common informer in these matters. And it is as well so, for a healthy public opinion does not regard the common informer in an admiring light, however useful he may be as an expedient for setting the law in motion when laxity and lethargy clog its actions.

A common informer has little scope even regarding election offences. Some day, however, we may hear some enterprising individual trying to evoke 17 and 18 Victoria, chap. 102, which, by Section 7, places a penalty upon any candidate or agent giving or providing cockades, ribbons or other marks of distinction. The penalty is the sum of two pounds for every such offence to be forfeited "to such person as shall sue for the same, together with full costs of suit." Quite a nice way of making a living if the offenders, and they are many, can be caught.

To return to our point, the penalties for acting when disqualified, are heavier in the case of Municipal and

County Councils than in the case of Urban and District Councils. And it should be noted that there is *no penalty* for merely retaining office; the penalties only apply when a person acts in the office.

Section 41 of the Municipal Corporation Act, 1882, reads:—

"If any person acts in a corporate office without having made the declaration by this Act required, or without being qualified at the time of making the declaration, or after ceasing to be qualified, or after becoming disqualified, he shall for each offence be liable to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds, recoverable by action.

"A person being in fact enrolled in the register of local government electors, shall not be liable to a fine for acting in a corporate office on the ground only that he was not entitled to be enrolled therein."

The above section has to be read in conjunction with Section 224, which reads:—

"An action to recover a fine from any person for acting in a corporate office without having made the requisite declaration, or without being qualified, or after ceasing to be qualified, or after becoming disqualified may not be brought, except by a local government elector of the borough, and shall not lie unless the plaintiff has, within fourteen days after the cause of action arose, served a notice in writing personally on the person liable to the fine of his intention to bring the action, nor unless the action is commenced within three months after the cause of action arose.

"The court or a judge shall, on the application of the defendant within fourteen days after he has been served with writ of summons in the action, require the plaintiff to give security for costs.

"Unless judgment is given for the plaintiff, the defendant shall be entitled to costs, to be taxed as between solicitor and client.

"Where any such action is brought against a person on the ground of his not being qualified in respect of estate, it shall lie on him to prove that he was so qualified.

"A moiety of the fine recovered shall, after payment of the costs of action, be paid to the plaintiff."

It will be seen from the above that bringing to book a disqualified Councillor is by no means a simple task, where an individual desires to take action, notwithstanding that some moiety of the fine may perhaps ultimately be paid to him. Certainly we would advise no Local Labour Party to encourage an action on the lines indicated, and in every case legal advice is necessary. A remedy which Local Labour Parties should exercise however, when sure of their facts, is to bring pressure to bear on the Council itself. The latter in some cases may declare the seat vacant, and so terminate any opportunity for offence.

In regard to District Councils and Metropolitan Borough Councils, Section 46 (8) of the Local Government Act, 1894, applies. This reads "If any person acts when disqualified or votes when prohibited under this section, he shall for such offence be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding twenty pounds."

In the latter Act there is no supplemental provision of the nature of Section 224 of the Municipal Corporations Act above quoted. The fine, therefore, is one to be recovered before Justices in the ordinary manner under the Summary Jurisdiction Acts. Any person may prosecute, but there is no part of the penalty which may be paid to him.

Perhaps it is as well to point out that penalties of the nature we have been discussing are quite apart from procedure to secure a declaration of a vacancy. The fact that a person may be fined for acting when disqualified does not necessarily vacate his office.

A disqualified person is, of course, open to an action of quo warranto (see "Labour Organiser," May issue, page 89). He may also be restrained from acting by injunction. Both these processes are entirely distinct from prosecution for the offence of acting when disqualified.

HAVE YOU GOT THAT COMMITTEE ROOM?

Many local organisations, particularly in county constituencies, are likely to experience difficulties over the renting of suitable committee rooms. In some places adequate accommodation cannot be obtained for love or money, and when the election arrives officials will be at their wits' end for want of rooms in which to concentrate local effort, do necessary clerical work, and conduct the campaign.

This is a difficulty that should be faced at once. It is simply mad folly to leave to an election agent appointed at the last minute the big task of finding rooms. Work is disorganised, and if rooms are at last obtained it will be at an exorbitant figure, while it is even more likely the campaign will be crippled and stunted by lack of accommodation. The candidate's prospects will assuredly suffer.

We strongly advise local Parties who have exhausted all efforts to get an option on suitable premises, or to provide their own, to consider the purchase of a small hut, or several, which may be erected on odd pieces of rented land, or even in members' gardens. There has recently been a considerable reduction in the price of ready-to-erect wood buildings, consequent on a general lowering of imported timber prices. Small hutments quite complete with windows, floor, and door, and quite big enough for a country sub-agent, can be obtained for about £15, while larger and of course more desirable erections range in many sizes and prices from £15 to £75, some of the larger being big enough for public meetings. Prices at the present time are really quite reasonable, and in many villages there is sufficient enthusiasm to purchase such a building without recourse to central or election funds. Divisional Parties would do well to consider at their next meeting the plan on which their Division will be fought, and to refer this question of accommodation to local consideration and report, with suggestions on the plan above mentioned. In most rural parts recently purchased erections are to be seen adapted for all uses, and a few coppers spent in gardening, small holders, or motoring journals will secure several merchants' addresses for inquiry purposes.

[From the L.O. for August, 1921.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir,

Abnormal Number of Parliamentary Voters at one Address

Mr. Montford asks in the June issue of the "Labour Organiser" if his figures are exceeded anywhere in the kingdom. They are!

On the Hadrian Ward Register, Wallsend-on-Tyne, Simpson's Hotel has 181 Parliamentary Voters and no Local Government Voter.

Simpson's "Hotel" is really a Boarding and Lodging House near Swan and Hunter's Shipbuilding Yard, which became more or less famous as the birthplace of the Mauretania.

Yours sincerely,

CLAUDE DENSCOMBE.

28, Glebe Road,
Forest Hall,
(Northumberland).

The Editor, "Labour Organiser."

Sir,

My colleague Montford in your current issue asks are the figures of 115 and 160 names on two electoral registers in respect of individual houses exceeded anywhere in the kingdom?

Yes! St. Marylebone has at least two such instances which are in excess of these numbers.

No. 33, Lisson Street, a Salvation Army hostel has 260 Parliamentary electors, and 2/8, Mortimer Street, another hostel, has 206 electors.

In addition there are a number of hostels of various kinds in this Division which have large numbers of electors.

Perhaps there are other Divisions with even more excessive figures.

Yours fraternally,

R. STANTON.

TIPS FOR THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION.

Don't begin the general canvass too soon. It is so easy to exhaust your workers and assume all is sunshine because you get a good canvass when nobody else is on the job to oppose you. The fresh forces of the enemy coming on later will knock spots off your favourable canvass of to-day. Store some energy for later on.

By all means canvass now but canvass for workers on your list of people who, while not at present active in the Party, have some con-

nection with it, such as co-operators, trade unionists, &c. It will pay to visit as many of these as possible. The method and result is altogether different to a raw canvass of an (as yet) uninterested electorate.

Insist on all candidates for your borough making common cause—There is only one Labour "platform."

Have nothing to do with "arrangements" for buying off opposition. Labour thrives on fighting, and a few jelly-bags admitted on sufferance to the Council is a poor reward for your efforts to build a Party that would win against all comers. Besides it is rank betrayal of Labour's Cause.

Get the candidates together now to talk over points. Let them meet with councillors already elected and obtain an insight into the duties. This will help them, particularly if they have to challenge retiring councillors. Get ready to bring your women's section into action. Send a deputation from your Party Executive Committee to discuss plans with them. This will please the Sections and produce more suggestions and enthusiasm.

Try to arrange now alternative dates for all regular Party meetings falling in the last fortnight of the contest.

Writing as far as possible should be done early. It is better that a few should *not* undertake this and rush it through at express rate. It is more helpful and conducive to wider interest to have occasional Party writing nights with preparations for quite a number of scribblers. The worst writers can be given checking jobs to do. Remember the register will not be available till early in October, but the list and old register may with care be made available.

Have you any prominent notice-boards belonging to your Party in parts of your borough? If not, it will pay you to get some.

Book up speakers now for such meetings, indoor or outdoor, as are decided upon. Also consider your accommodation for out-door work. Get a decent platform of some kind. Lanterns may also be necessary.

Remember that at the coming elections Labour is likely to do well throughout the country. Remember that a special significance will attach to this year's elections. Don't let your town be an exception to the rule.

[From the L.O. for August, 1921.]

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QUESTIONS ANSWERED HERE

If Two Printers do a Job are Two Imprints Necessary?

Question.—Will you kindly let me know if, during an election (to save expense) I printed in the dates, etc., on handbills in bulk by another printer, a second imprint with my name and address, must be added; also if a nominal charge for this would have to be made as election expenses?

Answer.—This question opens up a wider question than that raised by our correspondent. The mere filling in of dates is not a serious matter, but it will be an interesting study to see how far a second printer may be permitted to add his work to that of another printer, without adding his own imprint.

Section 18 of the C.I.P.A. 1883, requires that "every bill, placard or poster having reference to an election, shall bear upon the face thereof the name and address of the printer and publisher thereof." Section 14 of the Municipal Elections Corrupt and Illegal Practices Act, 1884, contains a similar enactment, which applies to Local Government Elections.

It will be seen from the above that the possibility of any circular being the work of two printers has not been expressly provided for. One must, however, consider both the intentions of the Act and its express wording. The intention is clearly to enable scurrilous statements to be traced to their source, and this obviously could not be done if any printer was at liberty to superimpose other matter on a bill or placard already bearing the imprint of another printer.

The matter is not so simple as it appears at first sight. There is no definition of the term "printer," and in seeking to arrive at one, trade customs must not be lost sight of. Work is sometimes farmed out or

portions of it farmed out. We think in such cases it is sufficient if the printer delivering the goods uses his own imprint, unless indeed he is merely a printer's agent, and a "printer" in name only.

The question of degree also appears to us to enter into this matter. It is no uncommon practice for election agents and candidates to purchase from their headquarters leaflets which contain a space in which is to be filled the name and address of the Local Party or agent. We do not think that if such leaflets are sent to a printer for the above data to be added that this printer requires to add his imprint. The imprint of the firm which printed the placard or bill will be already there, and the intention of the Act appears to us to be fulfilled.

On the other hand we can imagine bordered leaflets or designed matter being supplied by a printer or a leaflet being supplied by headquarters printed on one side only to any of which things may be added printing which is the essence of the publication. In such case the second printer's imprint should certainly be added, whether the imprint of the original printer appears or no.

No general opinion can cover every specific case. The addition of "Vote for _____" to a man's name and address may, in the opinion of an Election Judge, be such an addition as to require an imprint. It is a moot point whether when skeleton bills are purchased the *printing* in of dates and sundry matter require an imprint. We should prefer not to indulge in this practice. Where matter is filled in on a skeleton handbill by handwriting or rubber stamp, and such matter is purely confined to particulars of meetings, we do not think an imprint is required. If election catch-words and messages are added the border line appears to have been reached.

What is Mass Canvassing?

Question. I am a reader of the "little paper with a big reputation." I should be so very glad if you can add to your reputation for helping your readers by giving me an explanation of what is meant by "mass canvassing." The members of our Party appear to have different ideas on this matter. It has been proposed that we arrange to do mass canvassing for our Municipal Elections, but nobody seems to know quite how to set about it. Will you please give me your ideas?

Answer. We cannot do better than refer our correspondent to the admirable new book which has been published by the Labour Party entitled "Conduct of Elections." A notice of this book appears on another page, and the cost is only five shillings, post free. There are so many other good things in this book that we can afford to extract from it the explanation there given of mass canvassing in the certainty that our correspondent will find in the book information on no end of other matters in which he is equally interested. The "Conduct of Elections" covers Municipal Elections from beginning to end.

"The Labour Party excels in this type of special electioneering. It is really a form of intimate and colloquial street meeting which is suitable in certain districts. The results are pronounced and effective in building up the vote. Afternoon mass canvassing when the children are at school is very advantageous. A group of helpers go into a street and call at the houses and invite the women to come to their doors and hear a Labour speaker.

"Sometimes a small handbill is delivered:—

**PLEASE COME OUT FOR A
FEW MINUTES.**

**A TEN MINUTES MEETING
is being held in this street now, in
SUPPORT OF THE LABOUR
CANDIDATE.**

COME AND ASK QUESTIONS

"At a given moment the leader of the group rings a handbell, and asks the residents to listen to the speaker. The said speaker then delivers a few homely words about the Labour candidate and the Cause and asks the women to vote for Labour. Invariably the women

come to the doors or listen behind the window curtains.

"Meanwhile the helpers distribute literature and converse as occasion arises with the people at the doors; often they can secure signatures to canvassing slips and get residents to accept window cards for display.

"Those who speak at these mass canvasses should be very brief, pointed and simple in their remarks. A few observations about household economics and praise of the Labour candidate will generally be very appropriate. To add zest, questions should be invited and the astute organisers of such meetings will have previously prompted sympathisers in the street to put a question, if there is any lack. In selected areas the candidate can attend in a car and introduce himself by a few words. When this is possible the effect is very good.

"Mass canvassing in the evening, whether light or dark, is very useful, if the right sort of persons for conducting it are available. One popular man or woman with a band of helpers can do street after street in certain parts of the town. If the night is cold and residents do not come to the doors they will listen at the windows and the message gets home."

THE OUTDOOR MEETING.*

Advertising the Meeting.— Having fixed the place, day and time of a meeting, the promoter should not be satisfied to leave to the speakers the task of collecting the audience. To do this will be to lessen effectiveness and cause wasted effort on the part of the lecturers.

In many a park, market place or other open space, the accommodation for an audience is quite as large as, or even larger than, in a building of considerable size. Many a mob-orator is just as effective as many of those who speak only indoors—in fact, the outdoor lecturer often speaks a great deal indoors as well. Why, then, advertise the Corn Exchange meeting in order to obtain an audience and leave the attendance in the Market Place to chance?

Of course, this is wrong. Every step usually taken to make the indoor meeting successful should be taken in the case of the outdoor gathering, except under the special circumstances which are referred to later. Press advertising, posters and handbills will make it likely that the remarks will be addressed to hundreds where tens only would listen at the unannounced affair.

Advising Opponents. — Frequently organisers of a propagandist meeting see that those who oppose their views are informed of it. One of the ways in which this can be done is to advertise in their newspapers, and this action can be defended on the grounds that it is not desired to talk only to the converted. The presence of a few representatives of the opposition will not only increase the size of the audience, but may add that amount of liveliness which will attract others to the neighbourhood of the stand.

Informing Supporters. — Whether the step just referred to is taken or not, all supporters should be informed. It might seem that this action is so obvious that no reference to it is necessary. On far too many occasions in the past, however, outdoor speakers have addressed their remarks to audiences composed principally of noisy opponents and those holding no fixed opinions. They have not had supporters to encourage them by their presence and applause, and yet these would often have been there if they had been notified.

A Series of Meetings. — One of the finest ways in which to engage in outdoor propaganda is to hold a series of meetings. To arrange, say, six on successive Saturdays would be far more effective than to hold many more at irregular intervals, provided that the series is advertised and that at the conclusion of each meeting the details of the next fixture are given clearly and an invitation extended to all to attend.

Capturing the Pitch. — When a hall is hired for an indoor meeting, it is almost certain that on arrival no one else will be found using it for that purpose. But if it is planned to hold one at a street corner, on reaching it the speakers may be surprised to discover that someone else is addressing an audience. When an open-air fixture is advertised, opponents sometimes forestall the organisers, who, with the speakers, then have to repair elsewhere, or cancel the meeting.

Occasionally the pitch is lost through not advertising a fixture. The speakers of another body, ignorant of the intention to hold a meeting there, begin to discourse before the other set of lecturers arrive.

Open-air sites, too, can be lost to travelling showmen — the Punch and Judy show, or the man who is tied up in knots to whom reference has been made, and in some places to street vendors of medicine or auctioneers.

For these reasons it is essential that, having decided to hold a meeting, you should arrange to capture the pitch early. All that is necessary generally, is to have your stand, waggon or car there from one to two hours before the time of the start, according to the hour of the day and the likelihood or otherwise of competition for the position. The mere fact that it is there will keep others away, unless they know of the police rule that *the presence of a stand only does not reserve a pitch*. If the second-comers place their stand in front of that of the first arrivals, and *begin their meeting* before the latter, they will be in order. This, of course, is only likely to happen very rarely.

But if it is particularly desired to hold an open-air meeting at a special spot, and there is any likelihood of an attempt on the part of opponents to "jump" the pitch, then the person sent with the stand to capture the position should be capable of getting up and beginning an address if the opponents arrive, so that it can be said that the proceedings have begun.

Often when a travelling showman is found in possession of a site, he will be agreeable to depart at an arranged hour, so as to allow the meeting to be held. In many cases the payment of a shilling or two will facilitate this arrangement.

Again, if on arrival it is discovered that another organisation is holding a meeting, an arrangement can often be made that they will conclude in, say, an hour's time, so that your speakers will have an opportunity of giving their addresses. Even if the latter may have to be abbreviated, there will be the advantage of beginning with a crowd already present. In order to make the most of this, do not delay the start. Immediately the chairman of the first meeting has terminated the proceedings, the man who is to preside at the second should begin his talk.

In a district in which there is one site of particular suitability, the various organisations which desire to use it regularly often come to a definite agreement that each shall be entitled to do so on a particular day of the week.

*We cull these notes from "The Outdoor Meeting," by J. F. Finn, price 5/-, Chapman and Hall. The book indicates that Mr. Finn is well qualified to deal with the subject he has taken, and the chapters disclose that there is much more in the subject than the ordinary person is given to suppose. Well worth reading.

Hills and Dales in Black Country

A "DUGGIE ARTICLE."

BY THE EDITOR.

I suppose, in the far back ages, when titanic battles twixt land and sea were fought out on forgotten beaches and lost continents, that the Black Country must have held its own in the long struggle. What age brought its herring bone back of volcanic rock I know not, but certainly the marshy swamps proved impenetrable for long æons to the seas of the carboniferous age, and there then flourished mighty vegetable tangles that laid a coal measure exceptional for its thickness, and so near the top to-day as to evidence how comparatively recent was the inevitable watery victory.

When, some day, learned men write us the story of the old North Atlantic continent, I am sure that the deposits of Middle England will reveal an epic tale of creeping seas and forests rising ever higher and higher to defeat them, the while elsewhere the waters were everywhere triumphant, and in silent depths were laid the foundations of other lands. I care not that Caledonia claims its mountains, and Ireland and Devon claim their hills. They too withstood the waters, but the solid coal of the Black Country—*quarried* as it has been—is proof, perfect proof, of a noble forest stand against greater odds; and a worthy issue to the conflict.

Once upon a time the sites of Smethwick, West Bromwich, Dudley, Wolverhampton, and the rest were a smiling, glorious revel of woodland, dale, and stream. Long after land had triumphed again, and mother earth had settled down to business and mankind, a paradise was evolved over the forgotten and buried remains of bygone forests and mighty earth convulsions. The Black Country was that "Eden." I must be forgiven if I prefer to think of the land in its ancient state and virgin beauty. Some of it is left near by. Man, who befouled the other Eden, repeated the crime on this one.

I hate to describe the black region of to-day, with its sordid wastes its tumbled landscape, its very blackness, and its children, born to ugliness in slumdoms repugnant alike to the senses and one's pride in race and country. To-day great towns "flourish," as our modern ideas of flourishing go, where in the bygone times prouder beings stalked amid the forest beauty, and life

was full if cheap—perhaps no cheaper than to-day. But the beauty is gone, and the pride in it and in glorious life is gone. One so inclined may stand upon a hill, whereon the glory of verdure still survives, and look out and down upon this scene of modern miseries, as another one looked upon a certain city and uttered its destruction.

It is a happy thought that it is Labour which is "out" to-day to restore to the Black Country and its people the joys and health and beauty of its former times. The jumble of its interwoven townships, its improvised roads—roads that are not roads, and little better for their needed service than the forest paths were for theirs—the appalling housing problem, the re-afforestation—all these are things that Labour is boldly tackling as a problem provincial in one aspect and national in another. Labour is steadily becoming, and is almost, top dog in the Black Country. Five Parliamentary seats out of ten is not a bad beginning.*

If on the map you draw a line eastwards from Stourbridge (where British glass is made and fireclay gives another industry) to Smethwick, you will roughly get the southern boundary of the Black Country. Strike north from Smethwick, and its engineering, to Walsall, where leather and fancy goods form a staple trade and this is the eastern boundary. A line westward to Wolverhampton and a convex one south again to Stourbridge completes the rough parallelogram, and one has embraced, shall I say, the whole scene of the crime.

Yet will you believe it, that within the borders of that land as I have described it, with its belching chimneys, glowing iron works, roaring machine shops, and clank and clamour of a thousand hammers, I have actually heard the cuckoo's song? Just as I said that in the long ago there raged a war between land and sea, or that to-day Labour and the Capitalism that has poisoned the lands also join issue, so another conflict between nature, that will not be subdued, and man's ravages lingers on to-day.

Actually, in the heart of the Black Country, at Dudley to be exact, the olden picture of the land still survives in wood and valley and greenest

pasture. In yet another part I know, man's cursed hunt for wealth has failed before the persistence of a woodland surviving by some strange influence amid the acridness of industry and the practice of a score of trades. Just the same way, idealism has never entirely succumbed among the people here, and the Black Country has produced its full crop of good men.

It is true that in the hey-day of industrialism the woods and coppices were violated and laid low to make room for growing townships and contribute to the utilitarianism of a soul-consuming greed, but it is also true that in many a tiny cottage home on the fringe of pitbanks, and in many a washhouse, chain shop or anvil yard, higher aspirations were nurtured, awaiting the sunshine again of a more human policy and creed. When Labour spread its organisation over the Black Country there was a mighty awakening. Somehow I fancy they were waiting for it. I am always proud that I was "in" at the awakening of the Black Country, and I cherish hopes that I may live to see the old order extended, the trees planted again, new roads cut, new cities laid, and a painful countryside upon the road to happiness and health.

Not long ago I took a trip on "Duggie" to beat the bounds of that parallelogram which spells so much of hope to us, but whose being is so sad that every journey in it or to it is a penance. It was a painful journey in another sense, for oversize tyres and "Duggie's" springs insuffice on Black Country roads to prevent the severe chastisement that will remind one of childhood's "happy" days!

I started from Stourbridge, always to be remembered in Labour circles that it was the first constituency to take courage in both hands and select a woman candidate. Mary Macarthur is no more, but passing through Lye and Cradley, and near to Cradley Heath, the veriest cockpits of former sweating and exploitation of men's and women's shamefully paid labour, I am reminded of the good that lives after her. It is well to think that in these parts she was not unremembered in her life. To the workers here she was a real heroine.

The journey through the long neck of the Stourbridge Division is a sordid travail, but in places one gets a glimpse outwards at the undespoiled country. And so to Smethwick. Here John E.

Davison, M.P., scored one in 1918, and Clem Jones, the agent, is no stranger to our readers. Heavens though, there is no trace of former beauty here! Smethwick is the most towny town in the Black Country, not though the ugliest or dirtiest.

We will avoid the hell of Oldbury (which is in the Stourbridge Division) if you please, and "Duggie" will bump us on to West Bromwich. West Bromwich has one fine street, a fine town hall, a soaring ambition to extend its boundaries and benevolence to all its neighbours, and—a Labour M.P. I think F. O. Roberts, M.P., has got a safe seat here. It was in West Bromwich that, long before the Black Country awakening came, a little band of pioneers strove for many years (almost, I believe, from the first year of the Independent Labour Party) to shed the light. Harry Brockhouse was a native born and bred. Again, the good one does lives after.

The road to Wednesbury takes us through the very heart of the Black Country and circles us round with hateful view on every side. However, here again we claim a Labour M.P., and the people who elected Alfred Short have Labour only as the hope in brightening both the outlook and their lives. Wednesbury is a borough constituency, but has all the characteristics of a county division. It straggles over pitbanks and the slag remains of desolate and closed down furnaces till it takes in two or three sister and brother towns. It is the most typical of Black Country seats.

It is three miles from Wednesbury to Walsall, and people in the latter town don't always care to be included in the Black Country. I have always wondered why, because the sheer and sordid ugliness of Walsall—at any rate of most of it—impresses one at once. I have included it in the Black Country as a compliment and something of a condescension, for to put it outside the pale would be to offend the pale, and this I have claimed to be green and verdant almost everywhere. Indeed, four miles from the Black Country in any direction except that of Walsall and Birmingham takes you to purest sylvan beauty, and in some places real hunting country and the lair of foxes and such.

That road to Wolverhampton, taking its East Division (Willenhall) on the way, is a bumpy, wicked death-trap. I have always felt a long way from

civilisation in these parts because of the roads and the view. Which reminds me, I have not informed you yet, dear reader, of the circumstance that in these lands it is generally only the slaves remain. The owners of the factories and the etceteras including the slums, live out in that fringe that I have mentioned. Indeed, they spread for thirty miles in all directions, and speed away from their goldmines when the day's work is done. Don't say I blame them.

If you have doubted me as to the beauties beyond the Black Country, when in Wolverhampton take a view from the great church on the hill and gaze west. The panorama is worth the trouble.

There is a singularity about the Black Country, in that it is never quite known which county it shall belong to. In its very heart the borough of Dudley stands out, an island of Worcestershire in an ocean of Staffordshire.

Dudley stands on a great hill, and "Duggie" will take us gently down the long slope to either of the several little towns contained in the Kingswinford Division. The Labour M.P. here is Mr. Charles H. Stith, one of the youngest members in the House, and whose victory in 1918 marked the end of a famous fight. Kingswinford Division should be safe for Labour all the time, and it is very proud of its M.P.

Kingswinford Division, in parts, is awfully near the fringe, though almost wholly typical Black Country. From lots of places one spies the hills of Clent and heights of Malvern.

Down that way, too, is home with hedgerows all the way, tempting this year, with big blackberries and a plentitude of overhanging apples. The far-famed perfect roads are well known to "Duggie," and soon we are whizzing away to lands that are good for sore eyes in their fruitfulness and quietude. And yet no man who has ever tarried in the Black Country will come away heart-whole. His thoughts will stray back, and he will want to strike for, and aid in, the long-due reformation.

[*In 1929 the score had risen to nine out of ten seats.—Ed.]

Back numbers of the "Labour Organiser" containing any of the articles reprinted in this issue can be supplied.

REAPING FROM PUBLIC MEETINGS

One of the banes of Labour electioneering is that the promises of enthusiastic public meetings do not always bear fruit on polling day. This is largely because no means are used to immediately reap the promise of the public meeting.

Provided that a sufficient number of intelligent stewards can be secured, there is an excellent method in vogue by which the difficulty may be got over.

A speaker is put up in the middle of the meeting to point out the evil referred to above, and that even while the audience are sitting in their places, canvassers are wasting their time knocking at their doors. The speaker is to ask that the audience shall be kind enough to put their names and addresses down on cards, which are immediately passed round with sufficient pencils for the purpose.

When it is put to the audience that the purpose is to save the candidate trouble, and to help the organisation, an enthusiastic response is usual, and with good stewarding hundreds of names can often be secured from one meeting. The result is a gratifying supplement to the results of the ordinary canvass, and one is not left in the difficulty on polling day of wondering who those people are who so recently were shouting themselves hoarse at the public meetings, but who on that day are not to be found for the purpose of taking to the poll. Human nature being what it is, there are literally hundreds, possibly thousands, of supporters in every constituency who, under the influence of a meeting, would declare themselves ready for anything in support of the candidate, but who on polling day have cooled down and would not vote until reminded. It is just these people who are missed by the ordinary canvassers and who consequently go unrecorded as "fors."

An improvement on the above method is for the names that have been sent in to be taken in hand on the morning following the meeting. A suitable "form" letter should be drafted preferably emphasising some little point in one of the speakers' addresses at the previous night's meeting. The letter should conclude with an invitation to meet the sub-agent or the clerk in charge, as the

case may be, at the district committee room. If this letter is promptly dealt with it is possible in most areas to post in time for delivery the same day, and the result is that the worker receives this reminder of the previous night's arguments when he arrives home after work. The letter, if well drafted, comes as a clinch to the speeches, and an emphasis and an addition to their arguments. It reaches also the other partner of the family circle, who may not have attended the meeting, and in every respect an excellent amount of good is done. Where this system has been adopted the number of such letters that have been produced at the committee rooms has been proof of the efficacy of the method.

[From the L.O. for November, 1922.]

WHAT TO SAY WHEN CANVASSING

There is no question more often asked concerning canvassing than that of the beginner who enquires what to say at the door. To this question there is no easy answer. It all depends. Each canvasser will make his introduction as suits the circumstances, for even the manner in which a door is opened sometimes decides the mode of address! Set subjects and phrases are sheer hopeless. It is, however, a good tip always to speak on the assumption that your candidate is known to the elector and that the expectancy is that they are going to vote for him. If the elector does not happen to know your candidate there is a subtle sense of something lost, which is conveyed if the first suggestion is acted upon. In spite, perhaps, of antagonism, the elector will feel a desire to make up the deficiency and to, at any rate, see and hear the candidate. Here the canvasser has merely to make good his opportunity by conveying an invitation to the next meeting. The assumption that the elector is going to vote for your candidate is evidence of the canvasser's own belief in the invincibility of his own side, and this conviction is often quickly conveyed to the elector, and has a beneficial effect. Willy-nilly, people like a winner, and the first impression towards one is usually friendly. It does not matter much by what little art a person's mind is thrown open to conviction so long as the vote and conviction follow after-

wards. Even the business man himself does not seek to do a deal till he has taken his victim out to dinner! so, too the canvasser should seek to make his first impression as convincing and telling as possible. It should never be forgotten, however, that the object of the election canvass is primarily for the identification of "fors" who may be polled on polling day. It is not intended that time should be wasted in attempted doorstep conversions. The canvass, however, should be a feeder for the meetings and also a current through which literature and statements can be spread.

[From the L.O. for April, 1922.]

"THE WOMAN'S CAUSE IS MAN'S"

Do you happen to know of a local Labour Party Executive, composed entirely of men, quite at a loss as to how to influence the woman voter for the next local or General Election?

Have you ever dared to ask those men "where their own women-folk happened to be?"

Have you ever canvassed wives of Trade Union and Labour men in order to get them to join a women's section or local Labour Party?

If so, you may have found that some Trades Unionist and Labour men *do not* enlighten their wives as to the reason it is necessary for them to be out night after night doing their bit for the Great Cause, with the result that their women-folk have a grudge against the Labour Party instead of understanding and regarding it is a friend to be proud of because of its work for the home and child-life.

It is even reported of *one* Labour man that he refuses to discuss politics at home, and even resents his wife asking questions about meetings or speakers! Let us hope he is an exception.

Another case, known personally, is a Trade Union Official who confesses his inability to explain his work or political views to his own wife, and even appeals to members of a Women's Section to call on her in his absence and explain Labour politics. All this means that secretaries *cannot* afford to ignore wives of their own members when arranging a canvass of women.

One of the finest things that a Women's Section can do at this stage is to organise a canvass of wives of Trade Unionists (a list of whom could be obtained from the agent or secre-

tary), and leave invitations to all meetings of the Women's Section and general meetings of the Party. It is so easy to put our case to the wife of a Trade Unionist or Labour man now, and many good women are waiting just for that invitation.

It is also essential that the time and place of the women's meetings should be announced regularly at all meetings of the Party. Very often this is not done, though one Borough Party secretary has adopted the excellent plan of typing at the bottom of the agenda supplied to each delegate at the fortnightly meeting a reminder of time and place of the Women's Section meeting, thus reminding the men and the women present that such meetings are really held.

It is important, too, that secretaries of Women's Sections should have announced at women's meetings all ward or polling district meetings, so that the women members may attend these very important meetings. To the good secretaries, who read "The Labour Organiser" the above suggestion will not be necessary, as they will have a complete list of women members of every ward and polling district, and these will *always* be invited to such meetings.

But, alas! one does know good, keen, women who somehow never get invited to ward meetings, it being understood that they belong to the *Women's Section only*. Surely the formation of Women's Sections is to prepare women for the larger movement, and not to keep them from it! "S'nuff Sed."

[From the "L.O." for February, 1922]

In response to numerous enquiries we beg to say that the bound volumes of the "Labour Organiser" for 1929 (Vol. 9) and 1930 (Vol. 10) are

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THE LABOUR PARTY

League of Youth

Monthly Bulletin

EDITOR :

W. ARTHUR PEACOCK.

No. 14 (NEW SERIES)

AUGUST, 1931

In Red Vienna.

EVEN now I still wonder whether it really happened — whether we really did go to Red Vienna and take part in the colossal demonstrations of the Second International! Our fortnight's stay in Austria was so crammed with incidents, so alive with thrills and excitement that once back in England it certainly seems rather like a fantastic dream.

To begin with, our reception in the Second Red City, was one which I know we shall never forget. When we left the train at Vienna West Station we were marched with our red banners to the top of the steps, and there we were stopped by the police who were unable to clear a path through the crowd. In the square below us a gigantic crowd of some 10,000 people were waving red flags and cheering us incessantly. A brass band crashed out "The International" as we came down the steps — and there we were almost mobbed by enthusiastic Austrian comrades. The air echoed with wild shouts of "Genossen!" (comrades!) and "Freundschaft von Rote Wien!" (Friendship from Red Vienna!) until the small English group were reduced to an exhausted, but nevertheless, delighted bewilderment.

STATELY HOMES

An adequate description of our experiences would indeed fill several volumes. In this small space I am of course, only able to tender a brief outline.

When we entered the New Vienna our young hearts thrilled at the dignified evidence of the glorious Socialist construction which is taking place there on a massive scale. The workers' buildings are truly magnificent! For instance, the Reumannhof, near the centre of Vienna, is a huge structure of grey stone, built in an ultra-modern design, and fronted by shaven

lawns and gleaming pools. Further out, the Karl Marx Hof rises in mammoth splendour, dwarfing everything within sight. This marvellous workers' building is constructed from red concrete, and is over a mile long. There are many buildings such as these in New Vienna. All are built in the interests of hygiene and comfort, and the flats themselves are irreproachable. All the League of Youth comrades lived in them during their week's stay in Vienna, and can speak from experience of the excellent way in which the Socialist Government is housing the working-classes.

THE OLYMPIAD

We visited two of the beautiful State swimming baths, we saw Vienna's rising generation being educated under splendid conditions at the huge State Kindergartens, we went to the great Co-operatives and Trade Union buildings. All that we saw was an education in itself, and a hundred times a day we thought: "If only all our English comrades could come and see this! What a tonic it would be for our own Socialist Movement!"

At the huge Stadium we saw workers from every corner of Europe gathered together to compete in the International Workers' Olympiad. Thousands of them marched into the arena carrying their red banners, until the great place was filled from end to end with blazing red standards from scores of countries!

Later in the week we sat in the Stadium again, together with 60,000 other comrades, to watch a truly stupendous presentation of the struggle of the workers throughout the ages — and the eventual triumph of Socialism. Six thousand people took part in this splendid mass play, and by the time it was over we could not believe that

(Continued on page 158, col. 2.)

London Leads

HAS the London County Council at last realised the great opportunity that such a large, rich and powerful local authority has for the development and building-up of a great city with modern civic conceptions, in the organisation of the community life of the vast millions who live and work in the metropolis? Or of the great numbers of visitors who touch the metropolis, many of whom base their whole conception of the country upon their London experiences and observations? No. This has not yet happened. The L.C.C., in spite of its grand extension of the County Hall at a cost of over half a million, has not yet extended its comprehension to organise London for the people, much rather do they leave the people to be exploited. Although the people have the power of the ballot-box, still the L.C.C. conserves and maintains a policy of reaction, in which London's millions mutely acquiesce.

CAMPAIGN FOR NEW MEMBERS

Why, then, "London has a plan"? Are the workers in London going to change their representatives on the L.C.C. or will the records still show 20 to 25 per cent. as the result of the polling after the next three years have rolled by. But London has a plan. It is not an august body who meet in fine chambers who have formulated this plan. It is not a plan that will directly reorganise the health services, education, traffic, or even solve the Charing Cross Bridge problem. Not directly at any rate. The plan referred to is that of the London Advisory Committee of the League of Youth.

Old London, adult London is not inspiring from a civic viewpoint. The glamour and romance of old London is oft-times re-enacted for fairs and bazaars. The L.A.C. has a plan whereby they hope that Young London will rally to the cause of Socialism. A stronger League of Youth to-day, and the Movement immediately feels the improvement. Half a decade later the general public will reap the gain. Therefore, London has a plan to increase its strength and virility.

The skeleton plan covering the whole of the area was formulated some months back. Now Leagues are being visited by the L.A.C. members and working

out in conjunction with the general plan the details for their locality. The Campaign proper is to be held from September— to September—, concluding in the local areas with an indoor Saturday evening social meeting, and on the Sunday an all-London Rally at one of the West End Theatres or a Town Hall.

WE WANT MONEY

Centrally a Youth Speakers' Panel is being brought up to date for the many calls it will have to face during the Campaign Week. Posters and handbills are being considered (London will appreciate copies of those already effectively used by other Leagues). Arrangements for the final Rally are also in hand. The more difficult task of raising a £50 Campaign Fund is in the hands of the L.A.C. The co-ordination of the local efforts culminating in the Sunday Rally on a meagre £50 is a great task but with the support, financial and otherwise, of the Leagues, the L.A.C. are both hopeful and confident.

(Continued from page 157.)

there was a single worker in any part of the world who could be anything but a Socialist!

So from day to day we were enthralled by the glorious new spirit of Red Vienna, and we were indeed sorry when the time arrived for us to leave for the mountains. Once there, however, the sombre beauty of the gigantic peaks round Gmunden and Ebensee filled us afresh with an awed fascination. It was here that our glorious adventure was nearly marred by tragedy. The accident which happened to comrade Gwyn Jones was only saved from being a terrible fatality, by the gallant action of comrade Ken Robbins, of Southgate, who risked a dreadful death in order to save Gwyn from dropping to the foot of the precipice. We returned to our Guesthouse shaken, but thankful in our hearts that the accident had been no worse.

This is but a passing glimpse of our holiday, but I hope sincerely that it is sufficient to fire every young Socialist with a desire to visit this wonderful city. It is not only an education for every worker, young and old, but it is a glorious testament to the cause of Socialism.

B.B.

Go Camping!

By S. W. A. SMITH.

In the following article Mr. Smith, who is a member of the Camping Bureau of the National Advisory Committee urges Leagues to encourage camping activities, and at the same time tells of the advantages that the open air life brings.

TO the holiday-maker in search of new experiences; to the town-dweller who wants to get away from the smoke and noise of city life; to the invalid seeking for health; to the Socialist in search of Socialism—my advice is—GO CAMPING!

During the last few years a number of branches of the Labour Party League of Youth have been taking part in camping activity and have found therein an excellent means of keeping their members together during the summer months. They have found in camp life the spirit of comradeship that is the essence of Socialism. By this means they have been able to help forward their work for the cause. To-day there are nearly a dozen standing week-end camps in different parts of the country which are run by, and for the benefit of, members of the League.

By camping I mean getting away from the artificialities and petty conventions of everyday life and getting out into the open air—living, eating and sleeping out-of-doors—and getting into touch with Nature. There is in all of us a craving for open air and sunshine and most of us have felt as Longfellow did when he said—

*I want air, and sunshine and blue sky,
The feeling of the breezes upon my face,
The feeling of the turf beneath my feet,
And no walls but the far mountain tops.
Then I am free and strong.*

We have most of us felt at some time or other the desire to camp. Probably our tent consisted of a clothes-horse and a sheet or an old mat stretched between two bushes. Someday a writer will tell the history of tents—and mighty fine reading it will make! It will tell of the skin dwellings of primitive races; of the Israelites and Moslems travelling in the

desert; of the days when chivalry shone in silken pavilions; of the time when a great part of the population of London was living in tents on the banks of the Thames after the Great Fire in 1666; of the tents and wigwams of gypsies, Red Indians and Arabs; and it will tell of the period from 1914 to 1918 when a great part of the manhood of our country had, perforce, to live in canvas dwellings. It will also tell of the obvious desire to get out into the open air that has been manifested by the post-war generation.

A camping holiday is not only the most enjoyable and the cheapest type of holiday that there is, but it is also a wonderful means of inculcating ideals of citizenship into those taking part. I am not advocating that campers should undertake a course of instruction in economics while living in their canvas homes. Far from it! But—the very choosing of a camp-site, with its regard for position, soil and prevailing winds, what is this but town-planning in miniature? And camp sanitation—getting a supply of water, finding the best place for depositing refuse, fixing up conveniences—what are these but health services? In camping there is to be found a job for all; each working for the common good and gaining an understanding of comradeship and brotherhood.

Not only does camping achieve all these ends, but it is also the most healthy kind of out-door activity in which branches of the League of Youth can take part. Everywhere doctors are recommending to their patients that they should get right away from the smoke and dirt of the town and enjoy the health-giving breezes of the countryside.

Although it is only about two years since the League of Youth began to think seriously about camping, the branches have already found how great a help it can be to them in their work. It provides members of the League with opportunities to get into touch with other members, it enables Leagues to organise summer schools and like events without undue expense. It provides an opportunity for the organisation of propaganda meetings in rural districts. It gives the League a chance to get on with the work for which it was organised—to give the younger members of the community an opportunity to work for Socialism.

Things we Hear.

THE Southall League of Youth can congratulate itself upon having its meeting place in one of the finest of our Labour Clubs. Its meeting room would make many other Leagues envious and ought to be the means of attracting good audiences to the lectures and discussions that are held. At a recent meeting a large number of members attended to hear an address on "The League of Youth; what it was, what it is and what it might be," from Mr. Arthur Peacock, the Editor of "The Bulletin." Rambling and camping are activities that appeal to the Southall members who feel that there is need for greater co-operation among local leagues than at present exists. Their meeting centre is not far from the Metropolis and there is a feeling that it ought to prove a useful rendezvous for a League rally. A good idea. Who will take the lead?

* * *

Mr. Arthur Peacock desires to point out to his various correspondents that his new address is 30, Thurleigh Road, S.W.12, and letters on matters pertaining to the League should be sent him at that address.

* * *

Another party of young people to visit the continent is being organised. This time under the auspices of the League of Nations Union. Its aim is to study the work of the League at Geneva, and arrangements have been made for good accommodation, attendance at lectures and a really jolly holiday for all at a low and moderate price. The party is due to leave for Geneva in two weeks' time. Readers whom it may interest are invited to communicate with the Secretary, Education Committee, League of Nations Union, 15 Grosvenor Crescent, S.W.1.

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A number of members of the League joined the party visiting Vienna for the Workers' Sports Olympiad and all have returned full of enthusiasm for this great movement which cries "Footballs not Cannon Balls." "Peace through Sport." The League of Youth is attached to the National Workers' Sports Association and Paul Williams sits upon its Committee. Greater interest in its activities should be taken and greater support given it so that it may achieve even greater successes when the next contests take place.

Although the team sent out by the National Workers' Sports Association was small in comparison to that of most of the other competing nations remarkable successes were gained, as Great Britain finished fourth out of twenty-two countries in the final placing for all events of which we actually competed in less than twenty-five per cent. Austria, Germany and Finland were the first three countries in the order named.

The greatest successes were achieved in athletics in which both Ivy K. Walker (Woolwich L.P.) and C. G. Cupid (B.S.I.) were successful in winning two events each. Miss Walker set up two new international records in winning the 100 metres and 200 metres in 12.4 and 25.6 seconds respectively. Mrs. M. L. Morrison was second in both events. Cupid also put up good times in winning the 100 metres and 200 metres men's in 10.8 and 22.3 seconds. A. F. Furze (R.C.A.) also won valuable points in being an easy second in the 10,000 metres and 5,000 metres. W. J. P. Ferdinade (N.A.T.S.O.P.A.) reached both the finals of the 400 and 800 metres and was placed third in the latter. The team of swimmers did not achieve the success anticipated due to brilliant swimming by our Austrian and German comrades who are well-nigh perfect in aquatic art. G. Smith (Bermondsey L.P.), however, was on the top of his form and won the 3,000 metres swim through Vienna in addition to securing fourth place in both the 400 and 1,500 metres.

The cycling team was in the capable hands of the National Clarion Cycling Club and in spite of considerable handicaps owing to the smallness of their team won, through Colin G. Copeland, the 20 kilos road and 2 kilos track races in addition to returning the two fastest times in the 50 kilos team race and securing second place in the 3 kilos hill climb.

NOTICE.

"The League of Youth Monthly Bulletin" is issued by the Press and Publicity Department of the Labour Party. By arrangement with the "Labour Organiser" it is first published in the pages of that journal, from which it is reprinted for wider circulation.